The Stoke Space Record: Andy Lapsa’s Sept 2026 Remarks, Out-of-State Outreach & Dual WA-FL Footprint

Pillar: Company Decisions | **Basis:** Verbatim Dated Quote (Sept 2026) | **Primary Source:** Stoke Space / CDL-Seattle / GeekWire | **As Of:** Sept 2026 Remarks (verified Nov 16, 2026)

At CDL-Seattle during Seattle Space Week in September 2026, Stoke Space CEO Andy Lapsa stated verbatim: 'If Stoke were starting today, I'll be straight honest with you: I'm not sure we'd make the same decision'—while clarifying Stoke is not leaving Kent or Moses Lake and hours later joining the 23-member Washington Space Council.

Documented Policy & Site-Selection Record

• Exact Dated Quote (Sept 2026): Speaking at Creative Destruction Lab-Seattle during Seattle Space Week, Stoke Space co-founder and CEO Andy Lapsa said: 'What will it take to ensure the next Stoke builds here, too? If Stoke were starting today, I'll be straight honest with you: I'm not sure we'd make the same decision.'

• Out-of-State Outreach Quote: Lapsa stated that economic development teams from South Carolina, Texas, Florida, Ohio, Idaho, and Illinois had contacted him within a couple of weeks, and he 'never received the same in Washington state.'

• Not Packing Up to Leave: Lapsa explicitly clarified he was speaking hypothetically about new startups and that Stoke Space is not leaving Washington—continuing its 168,000 sq ft Kent factory and Moses Lake (MWH) test operations alongside Cape Canaveral LC-14.

• Space Council Appointment: Hours after his remarks, Lapsa was introduced as a member of Governor Ferguson's 23-member Washington Space Council.

Stoke Space Documented Footprint & Statements

Dimension	Documented Fact	Date / Source
HQ & Rocket Factory	21009 59th Pl S, Kent, WA (168,000 sq ft)	Stoke Space / Census #1415
Propulsion / Test Site	Moses Lake (Grant County MWH), WA	Census #1409 & #2185
Orbital Launch Site	Launch Complex 14, Cape Canaveral, FL	Stoke Space (no orbital range in WA)
Sept 2026 Policy Quote	'...I'm not sure we'd make the same decision.' + 6-state outreach	CDL-Seattle / Sept 2026

Founder, Staffer & Site-Selector Takeaways

• Founder & Staffer Takeaway: Lapsa's warning is about the *next* startup's founding decision—praising WA engineering talent while flagging tax/regulatory friction and passive state outreach.

• Evidence Rule: Quote exact words and dates; do not conflate a hypothetical founding warning with an HQ relocation.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

• **WA Space Cluster Hub (#1382):** https://bcesg.org/washington-space-cluster-census/

• **Stoke Space WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/stoke-space-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **Kent WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/kent-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Moses Lake WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/moses-lake-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Moses Lake Test Corridor (MWH):** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-hardware-moses-lake-test-corridor-mwh/

• **Stoke Space Official Site:** https://www.stokespace.com/

• **GeekWire Aerospace Coverage:** https://www.geekwire.com/

• **WA Governor Executive Orders (EO 26-04):** https://governor.wa.gov/office-governor/office/official-actions/executive-orders

Provenance Note: Exact quotes verified from Sept 2026 Seattle Space Week reporting. Non-advocacy record.